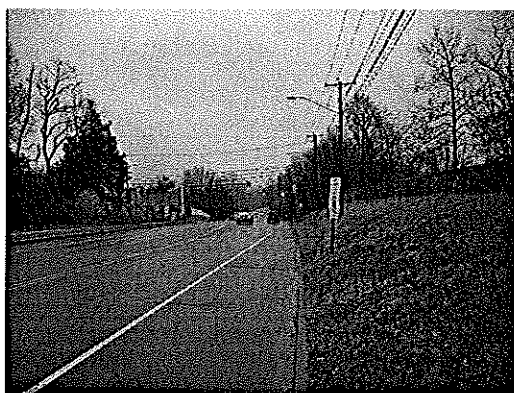


CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION
Written Testimony of Gloria Mills, Executive Director
Submitted to the Transportation Committee
In Support of Raised Bill No. 5386
March 3, 2010

The Connecticut Association for Community Transportation (CACT) supports and urges passage of **Raised Bill 5386, an act concerning the safety of pedestrians and cyclists and the promotion of healthy communities**. The bill seeks to improve the ability of Connecticut residents to choose and safely use modes of transportation other than the automobile to reach their destinations in a manner that is beneficial to their own health as well as to their community's by promoting transit use, walking and bicycling as green and economical alternatives to their car; and, reducing their carbon footprint and its impact on the climate, environment and air quality. Furthermore, Raised Bill 5386 does not require "new" state expenditures.



Sixty percent of transit trips begin with the transit rider walking to the transit vehicle (APT). Transit users in Connecticut face many unnecessary and discouraging obstacles at the bus stop, including the lack of curb cuts, sidewalks and other amenities that protect them from the effects of weather and the automobiles that share the road with them and the bus they are trying to board or depart. It is common for transit users to walk on busy roads or in mud to reach a bus stop.

For example, the photo is of a bus stop located on Park Avenue at Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course in Fairfield. There is no sidewalk access to the bus stop, it is located on a side of a hill, and it is a distance to the nearest signal and safe road crossing.

While this bill does not call for "new" state expenditures, it does provide that 10 per cent of the funds received by the state from the federal government under the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ), the Highway Safety Improvement Program ((HSIP), or the National Highway Safety 402 Funds Program shall be used by the Department of Transportation to create a competitive grant program for municipalities for the construction of infrastructure which includes, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) sidewalks,
- (2) bicycle lanes;
- (3) bus shelters, crosswalks, pedestrian islands; bulb-outs; and,
- (4) multi-use trails.

Under Raised Bill 5386 municipalities are required to submit project proposals to the appropriate regional entity. Each regional entity will submit five proposals to the Department of Transportation; and, the Department of Transportation shall award grants from those projects submitted by the regional entities.

CACT supports Raised Bill 5386. Thank you for your support of public transportation.

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